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OTR Registry

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for  
Administration

FROM: Harry E. Fitzwater  
Director of Training

SUBJECT: Organizational Development (OD) (U)

1. (U) I find very little to add to the attached discussion of the promises and pitfalls of OD. Embarking on an OD effort is not a decision to be made lightly. It is a long-term process requiring strong and continuing management support. OD demands a high level of commitment from its participants. Once initiated, it does not always lead to results deemed "best" by supervisors, managers, and executives. The process rests on an open, communicative, non-evaluative, non-defensive attitude on the part of participating supervisors and managers. In short, OD efforts hold forth no promise of a quick fix for organizational ills.

2. (U) The results achieved from carefully planned, implemented, and strongly supported OD efforts are at the heart of the continued appeal of the process. For that reason, the Office of Training (OTR) and Office of Medical Services (OMS) have developed and will, to the extent possible, maintain a low key OD capability. The jointly conducted Program on Creative Management is a part of this capability as is the Assessment Center approach sponsored by Psychological Services Staff. The OTR Senior Seminar has also employed OD techniques in several of its runnings. OTR has four individuals capable of handling the OD consultants' role. Our expectation is that these resources will be used in those instances where OD promises benefit. We believe they will most likely occur at the Branch and Division level within the Agency. We are not initiating OD efforts. We have a capability which can respond to OD-like requirements should they surface.

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CL by: 308235

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25X1A 3. (C) You might find it useful to discuss OD with [REDACTED], Information Services Staff/DDO (ISS). As you may recall, ISS sponsored an employee survey conducted by Psychological Services Staff. Based on survey results, ISS embarked on a variety of efforts aimed at, among other things, improving communications within the staff. The whole ISS project is, in many ways, a classical OD activity.

25X1A

[REDACTED]  
Harry E. Fitzwater

Attachment:  
As stated

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